

STATE OF NEW YORK.

AN ACT

TO FOUND A STATE WOMAN'S HOSPITAL.

Passed, April 18th, 1857



The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows :

SECTION 1. Peter Cooper, Benjamin F. Butler, George T. Trimble, Robert B. Minturn, and their associates, as hereinafter provided for, shall constitute a body corporate, with power to establish, maintain and conduct a hospital in the city of New York, for the treatment of the diseases peculiar to women, which shall be known and designated as the Woman's Hospital of the state of New York.

§ 2. The property and concerns of said corporation shall be vested in and managed by a board of twenty-seven governors, and said corporation may hold any lands or property which shall be conveyed to it, and may let, lease, mortgage or sell the same for the purposes aforesaid.

§ 3. Benjamin F. Butler, George T. Trimble, Theodore Sedgwick, Robert B. Minturn, E. D. Morgan, William F. Mott, Joseph B. Collins, A. R. Wetmore, Alexander E. Hosack, Thomas B. Stillman, Benjamin R. Winthrop, Stewart Brown, William Birdsall, Peter Cooper, E. C. Benedict, H. J. Raymond, J. D. Wolfe, R. L. Kennedy, John Jacob Astor, H. M. Schieffelin, Mark Spencer, George W. Bradford, John W. Francis, Cyrus Curtiss, Joseph Sampson and John C. Green, shall constitute the board of governors.

§ 4. The governor of the state, the mayor of the city of New York, the president of the state medical society, the president of the New York academy of medicine, and the presidents of the six following medical colleges, viz: the college of physicians and surgeons of the university of the state of New York; the medical department of the university of New York; the New York medical college; the Albany medical college; the medical department of the university of Buffalo, shall, by virtue of their respective offices, be members of the board of governors.

§ 5. On the second Wednesday in May next, or as soon thereafter as said board may organise, they shall by lot divide the twenty-seven governors into three classes of nine each, and the seats of said classes shall be vacant respectively on the second Wednesday in April, one, two and three years thereafter, so that nine governors shall be thereafter annually elected by said board of governors, to hold their seats for three years.

§ 6. At all elections, ex-officio members of the board of governors shall have the power of voting by proxy.

§ 7. The board of governors shall have power to fill all vacancies that may occur in said board, to enact by-laws, to organise a medical board for said hospital and to appoint all other assistants, agents and servants, (except matrons, nurses and other female attendants,) as may be proper to carry out the purposes of said corporation.

§ 8. Not less than fifteen governors shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of electing officers, making by-laws, or for holding any special meeting, but for all other purposes and at stated meetings, nine shall be a quorum.

§ 9. All the professors and matriculated students of any regular medical college in the state, and all other members of the medical profession, and students of medicine, may be admitted to the privilege of visiting said hospital, under such equal regulations as may be prescribed by the board of governors.

§ 10. No person holding an appointment under the board of governors, (unless it be honorary,) shall be a member of that body.

§ 11. The domestic concerns of said hospital shall be entrusted to a board of supervisors composed of thirty-five ladies, who shall exercise a general supervision over the moral and domestic management of said hospital. They shall have power to visit the hospital at any time, and inspect all its apartments; to fill all vacancies in their own board; to enact by-laws for their own government, and to appoint or remove all matrons, nurses and other female attendants necessary for such an institution: provided, however, such appointments are not against the expressed wish of a majority of the medical board of said hospital.

§ 12. Mrs. David Codwise, first directress; Mrs. Wm. B. Astor, second directress; Mrs. Robt. B. Minturn, third directress; Mrs. Jacob LeRoy, Mrs. T. C. Doremus, Mrs. B. F. Barker, together with Mrs. Henry Baker, Mrs. F. U. Johnston, Mrs. E. C. Benedict, Mrs. W. M. Kirk, Mrs. H. K. Bogert, Mrs. Joseph Lawrence, Mrs. H. C. Bowen, Mrs. Thomas Mason, Mrs. James Brooks, Mrs. M. A. Marvin, Mrs. Dr. Cheever, Mrs. J. C. Montgomery, Mrs. D. D. Conover, Mrs. Elisha Peck, Mrs. Peter Cooper, Mrs. Walden Pell, Mrs. A. P. Crane, Mrs. H. J. Raymond, Mrs. Dr. De Witt, Mrs. C. H. Russell, Mrs. Dr. Horace Green, Mrs. W. B. Skidmore, Mrs. M. H. Grinnell, Mrs. Dr. A. H. Stevens, Mrs. C. B. Hatch, Mrs. Horace

Webster, Mrs. G. W. Hatch, Mrs. J. C. Wheeler, Mrs. G. G. Howland, (comprising the board of managers of the present Woman's Hospital,) shall constitute the board of supervisors of the State Woman's Hospital created by this act.

§ 13. At any time hereafter when the state shall contribute a sum equal to that invested in the lands, buildings and property of said corporation, then there shall thereafter, and as long as the said corporation shall exist, be reserved in said hospital a certain number of beds, not less than one for each county in the state, for the use of poor patients, residents out of the city of New York, to be selected as the legislature may hereafter designate, and said patients shall receive the medical attendance and care of the officers of said hospital, and be boarded therein free of expense until, in pursuance of the rules and regulations thereof, they are discharged.

§ 14. The act passed on the first of March, 1799, entitled "An act to incorporate the Lying-in-Hospital of the city of New York," is hereby so far amended as to enable the trustees of said corporation to appropriate its funds to the use and purposes of the corporation hereby created.

§ 15. This corporation shall possess the general powers and be subject to the general restrictions and liabilities in the third title of the eightieth chapter of part first of the Revised Statutes.

§ 16. This act shall take effect immediately.